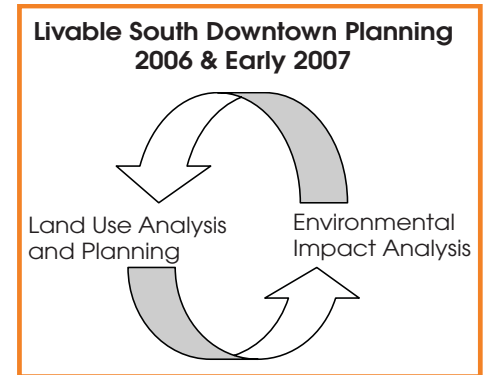


Environmental Impact Statement Purpose & Process

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document prepared to describe the effects of proposed activities on the environment. The primary purpose of the Livable South Downtown EIS is to ensure that analysis of possible environmental impacts is provided to the public and decisionmakers, and environmental considerations are incorporated into Livable South Downtown planning. Elements of the EIS process will take place throughout 2006 in conjunction with general land use planning for South Downtown.

The EIS process provides an opportunity for City government and interested members of the public to review and comment on proposed land use actions and decisions. The process is intended to help the City to improve its plans and decisions, and to encourage the resolution of potential concerns or problems. For that reason the Livable South Downtown EIS will be conducted prior to developing a final proposal.



Scoping

An important phase of the Livable South Downtown EIS process is "scoping" to identify the range of actions and impact topics that will be addressed in the document. Scoping is the first step in the environmental review process. While formal scoping kicks off the EIS, scoping also occurs throughout the EIS process: as new information is learned, the scope of the analysis can be revised accordingly. Fundamental objectives of the EIS scoping process include:

- Identify public concerns and areas where additional expert analysis may be warranted.
- Develop land use alternatives that will be examined.
- Identify significant issues that need to be analyzed.
- Ensure that problems and positive aspects of the land use proposals are identified early and are properly studied.
- Identify potential mitigation strategies.

Milestones in the EIS Scoping Process

The EIS formal scoping process will feature several identifiable milestones and phases:

May 15, 2006

Determination of Significance is published by the Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD).

May 15-June 15, 2006

Comment Period: Formal scoping is required to continue for at least 21 days. DPD will conduct extended scoping for a period of 31 days. During this time, written comments are accepted by DPD regarding the scope of EIS analysis.

June & July 2006

Finalizing the Scope. At the end of the comment period, DPD staff will publish the formal scope of EIS. Again, DPD staff will take comments throughout the EIS process.

Environmental Impact Statement Milestones

The South Downtown EIS process includes several notable phases:

- 1) Formal scoping. The first step in the environmental review process, "scoping" is an opportunity for project staff and community to discuss the range of topics that will be addressed in the EIS.
- 2) Draft EIS (DEIS). A draft environmental impact statement will be released in autumn 2006. The community will offer feedback on the DEIS document, and staff will formally respond to public comments. The EIS alternatives will be amended and environmental analysis will continue.
- 3) Final EIS (FEIS). The final EIS will be released in the spring of 2007.

The draft project timeline below reflects the integration of EIS analysis and land use planning that will be undertaken as part of the Livable South Downtown project. Each element will include several opportunities for public involvement that are identified on the Livable South Downtown web site.

	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07
Draft EIS TIME FRAME:																			
EIS Scoping			—																
EIS Analysis*			—	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Draft EIS Published									X										
Draft EIS Comment									—										
Final EIS Analysis										—									
EIS Published													X						
Draft LAND USE PLANNING TIME FRAME:																			
Preliminary Recs	X																		
Land Use Analysis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Final Recommendation to Council																	X		
Council Deliberation																		—	—
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—